

because we have been trying now to integrate into the NRD system every one of these types of independent resource activities that have been going on and have succeeded 99 percent of that goal of merger with this one exception of these small conservation districts in one area of the state that refuse to merge with NRDs. We had legislation when I was first down here in '79-80 that extended their life a few years and then I think we did it again and we keep giving them another couple of years here and another couple of years there, always with the idea that eventually their work would merge with the NRD and we would move forward with one unified effort. Well, this continues to happen and we will have these conservation districts forever unless we stop LB 124 and allow the sunset to occur and merge these people with the NRD. Now why should every other NRD in every other area in the state have gone through the process of merging these hundreds and hundreds of watershed districts and conservation districts and whatever have all been merged in every area of the state but this one? And this one area continues to refuse to have one united effort on natural resources. So I understand that area being from Senator Johnson's District why he would vigorously want to see that continue, but I am saying that for the rest of the state we have made that effort, why not this one area as well. So I would ask your rejection of LB 124 and its defeat at this point so that we can see that one last vestige of the old system removed and the new system fully flourish completely. So I would ask your support for the kill motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, needless to say, this issue is very important to me, personally, because it does affect an area that I do represent. It does affect an issue that I think is very important and it is probably one that is more philosophical in nature and I think that is where Senator Beutler and Senator Wesely and Senator Vickers are coming from in their opposition to this bill. But let's look at the facts not so much the history of whether you are philosophically opposed to an issue such as this one. The Blue River Association of Groundwater Conservation District has been working hand in hand with the Upper Big Blue NRD. The Upper Big Blue did come before the Public Works Committee and support the continuation of the work that the Conservation District is doing in conjunction with the work that the NRDs are doing. Let's take a look at what they